



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

**Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson**

**Tuesday, October 7, 2014**

**6:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.*

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor de la Cruz and Councilor Peruzzotti

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.*

#### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **2013-0156 Town Manager Annual Evaluation (2013)**

##### **Discussed**

*The consensus was to postpone discussion of this item until Councilor Peruzzotti is present.*

##### **2014-0155 Town Manager Annual Evaluation (2014)**

##### **Not Discussed**

##### **2014-0198 Noank School Public Gardens - Update**

##### **Discussed**

*Robert Palm of the Noank School Public Gardens group noted that he has met with the Town Manager and Town Attorney and the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reflects the group's vision for the property. Mr. Palm assured Councilors that the group is ready to go and fully committed to the project.*

*Mayor Schmidt asked if the Town will be required to carry additional liability insurance on the property. The Town Manager noted that this is a Town operation and therefore the Town will be liable, but he does not anticipate any change in the cost of insurance. The MOU suggests the formation of an advisory committee that will oversee the gardens on the property. Discussion followed on who would make the appointments and whether or not the committee would be a permanent ABC (agencies, boards, and commissions as outlined in the Town's guidebook). The proposed year by year extension of the MOU and the need to identify an annual work plan, the first year of which is included in the draft MOU, were noted. Town Manager Oefinger stated that the oil tank removal, asbestos abatement, and building demolition will happen in late November or early December. Discussion followed on creation of the committee.*

*Mr. Palm noted that the group would like to have an event before winter that would include a string layout of the gardens that can be removed so it does not interfere with the demolition of the school.*

*Councilor Frink noted the requirement that the committee meet FOI requirements. He also recommended that the group review their plans with the Noank Zoning Enforcement Officer.*

*Discussion followed on the need for a formal MOU since it would, in effect, be the Town creating*

*an agreement with itself. Additional discussion took place on creation of the committee and the timing of appointments. The Town Manager explained the process to establish a committee and the need for the Council to agree to the process. Mr. Palm noted that there are many people who have committed to being on an advisory board in addition to 75 people willing to be part of a volunteer gardening group.*

*The Town Manager recommended that the Town Council adopt a resolution establishing a committee using the guidelines from the MOU. The consensus was that the Town Council would make the first round of appointments. A draft resolution will be prepared for consideration at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**2014-0256****Procurement of USS Groton Sail and Planes****Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger distributed minutes from a meeting held last Thursday of the initial USS Groton Sail Committee. Subcommittees were established at the meeting. Councilors also received a copy of the draft letter to be sent to the Navy. Discussion followed on a resolution committing the Town to acquisition of the submarine parts. The City of Groton will pass a similar resolution.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*